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Item 10 of the provisional agenda*
Critical issues relating to the integration of land and marine geospatial information

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Note by the Secretariat

The Secretariat has the honour to bring to the attention of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management its report on critical issues relating to the integration of land and marine geospatial information, which is available from the website of the Committee of Experts (http://ggim.un.org/ggim_committee.html). The Committee of Experts is invited to take note of the report and to express its views on the way forward in order to facilitate the integration of land and marine geospatial information so that planning, management and solutions can be identified for Member States in a seamless, interoperable and holistic way.

Summary of the report

At its second session, held in August 2012, the Committee of Experts noted the importance of the world's seas, oceans and coastal waters as a significant global resource that was neither well mapped nor integrated with land geospatial information. The Committee of Experts also noted the lack of harmonized land and marine geospatial data and access polices, and the need for closer working relations between land and marine geospatial data creators in Member States. The report, supported by background papers prepared by the International Hydrographic Organization and the International Federation of Surveyors, describes the importance of hydrographic information as a fundamental prerequisite to the development of successful economic and environmentally sustainable human activities; the need for Governments to place greater emphasis on the mapping of the world's seas, oceans and coastal waters; the lack of harmonized land and marine geospatial data access

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and policies, and the challenges of integrating land and marine geospatial information; and the common existence of non-matching geospatial data sets (topographic maps and nautical charts), resulting from differing vertical datums, symbologies and generalization issues.